

THE PLAGUE SITUATION

San Francisco's Suspected Case Proves to Be Genuine.

Precautions Taken by the Marine Hospital Service to Prevent an Epidemic—Dr. Wyman Not Alarmed Over the Appearance of the Disease—Reports From Hawaii.

The first case of bubonic plague in this country resulted fatally a week ago in San Francisco when a Chinaman succumbed to the disease. The fact that the man died of genuine plague was only made known yesterday after a careful diagnosis of the case by expert bacteriologists of the Marine Hospital Service stationed at San Francisco. The first report, made immediately after the Chinaman died, stated that there was a strong suspicion of plague apparent in the superficial examination that had been made.

This was subsequently denied, the report declaring that the victim had died from other causes.

The more recent report, indicating conclusively that the plague existed, was made after a guinea pig and rat had died upon being inoculated with virus taken from the glands of the dead Chinaman.

The Federal quarantine officers, stationed at San Francisco, are acting under orders from Surgeon General Wyman and are taking the precautions necessary to ensure complete protection to the residents of San Francisco. The first intimation that the efforts will be anything but successful. It has been decided not to quarantine Chinatown as the case in question is supposed to be sporadic, but a systematic inspection of the quarter has been started. Chinamen who may be sick will not be attended by white physicians and all dead will be promptly examined.

It has not been definitely settled how the Chinaman contracted the disease, but it is thought that it came through the use of cheap food products from infected districts.

The alarm expressed in some quarters that America's shores would be visited by the scourge has not been felt by Surgeon General Wyman, of the Marine Hospital Service, and his staff. The first intimation that such a calamity was possible came with the announcement that the captain of an English vessel sailing from Brazil was ill with the disease. His vessel at the time was quarantined in New York harbor.

A long discussion between the New York State and Federal quarantine officers, relating to the advisability of permitting the owners to land their cargo of coffee from the infected vessel followed. With the exception of an infected ship, which was under strict quarantine at Port Townsend, no other cases of the plague have been reported nearer our shores than Honolulu.

One reason given for the absence of alarm among the Marine Hospital officials is the well known rigidity of the quarantine regulations of the United States and the excellent results obtained in plague cases by using the disinfectant known as Dr. Pasteur, of the Pasteur Institute in Paris. It is said that in no instance has it failed to cure when used in the early stages of the disease and in sufficient quantities.

In Honolulu United States Marine Hospital Surgeon Carmichael has used the serum in six cases of genuine plague. Five recovered and the other resulted fatally. Dr. Wyman, in a letter to Surgeon Carmichael, explains that the Board of Health in Honolulu should have used the serum in larger quantities in the case which proved fatal. Dr. Wyman is of the opinion that this should have saved life. He also says that much larger doses of the serum should be used than heretofore, especially during the first forty-eight hours of the disease.

The plague situation throughout the world, and especially in Honolulu, is greatly improved, according to reports received at the Marine Hospital. In a letter to Surgeon General Wyman, under the date of February 24, Surgeon Carmichael says that no new cases of plague have been reported since March 20. One case of pneumonia type, he says, was discovered in the detention camp at Kahuahine, according to reports received on February 15. There are no new cases in the town, and none is reported from Hilo, Hawaii.

A new rat-proof quarantine wharf has been constructed on the eastern side of Honolulu Harbor. It is built on copper sheathed piling surrounded by water and is well isolated. Surgeon Carmichael is of the opinion that this should prove a valuable addition to the harbor in landing and distributing island freight.

The official record of plague cases and deaths recorded by the Hawaiian Board of Health from December 12, 1899, to February 21, 1900, show a total of 62 cases, of which 25 were fatal. Of those who died 24 were Chinamen, 7 Japanese, 15 Hawaiians, and 3 whites.

WALKER TELLS HIS STORY.

Testifies That He Killed Shorter in Self-Defense.

The trial of Talmadge Walker, alias Thomas Walker, colored, charged with the murder of Hamilton Shorter, also colored, was resumed today before Justice Claiborne. Very soon after the court convened, the Government's case was closed and the defense was begun. A number of witnesses were called to testify to the defendant's reputation for peace and good order.

The defendant was then called and he told the story of the crime from his point of view. He said that he and Shorter and others came into the city on a wagon, and stopped at a saloon at the corner of Fourth and G streets. Walker, who had been drinking, Shorter, the witness said, became angry because he refused to pay for a drink for him. He also stated that the deceased threatened to "break off a knife" in him and a few minutes after that Shorter struck him on the head with a bottle.

After this, Walker said, the party got back into the wagon and started away. They did not go far before Shorter renewed the quarrel and stated that he was not yet done with the witness. Walker testified that he believed that Shorter was in the act of taking a knife from his pocket to cut him when he picked up a piece of wood and struck him two blows on the head. Walker said that after doing this he left the party.

BAD FEELING

'Tis the one great cause of rickets. The food is deficient in fat for the blood, and in mineral matter for the bones. Such children have profuse sweating of the head and great restlessness during sleep. The ideal remedy is Scott's Emulsion with hypophosphites of lime and soda. Here is fat to make the blood rich, and mineral matter to make the bones firm and strong.

At all druggists; 50c and \$1.00. SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, N. Y. & C.

HEAVY LOSS BY FIRE

Publishing Company's Plant Rained by the Flames.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., March 12.—Sunday night the structure on the corner of Main and Second streets west, known as the Walters Building, was found to be on fire in the second story. This entire floor was occupied by the Michie Company, law publishers, while the first floor contains two storerooms, one occupied by Gillespie & Co., plumbers and sanitary engineers, and the other by W. S. Wilkins & Co., grocers and dealers in liquors. The third story the Michie Company used as a storage warehouse for their bound books, as well as for various sheets. The fire originated in a pile of waste paper on the second floor in the rear, and gained considerable headway before discovered. The action of the fire company was so prompt and effective that the flames were under control from the first, and wholly extinguished in a short while. Much damage was done in this brief period.

The chief loss from fire was in the composing and pressroom and storage room, while in the stockroom and library the loss was not so great. The Walters Building is situated on the first floor. The loss in and insurance agents. The Michie Company, New Bedford regular highest grade drum cylinder press, Cottrell drum cylinder press, three job presses, large quantities of body type, dynamos, etc.; insurance, \$3,000; thousands of copies of unbound American and English Railroad new series; American and English Corporation Cases, new series; Municipal Corporation Cases, etc.; loss almost total; insurance, \$50,000. The Walters Building is situated on the first floor. The loss in and insurance agents. The Michie Company, New Bedford regular highest grade drum cylinder press, Cottrell drum cylinder press, three job presses, large quantities of body type, dynamos, etc.; insurance, \$3,000; thousands of copies of unbound American and English Railroad new series; American and English Corporation Cases, new series; Municipal Corporation Cases, etc.; loss almost total; insurance, \$50,000.

BREWING COMPANY CASE.

Arguments Concluded Before Judge Nicol at Manassas.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., March 12.—Arguments in the case of J. B. Nierendorf vs. The Consumers' Brewing Company, of Rosslyn, Va., were concluded before Judge Nicol, at Manassas yesterday. The case came up on a rule against the defendant company to show cause why an injunction should not be granted and a receiver appointed.

The company alleges in its answer that the action was the result of the effort on the part of the Washington brewers to crush it out of existence. The reading of evidence in the case consumed all day Saturday. The complainant was represented by Leon Nierendorf, Alexandria, and by J. B. Nierendorf, and E. Walton Moore, of Fairfax. The defendant company is represented by Attorneys Andrew A. Lipscomb, of Alexandria county, and L. A. Bailey.

It was announced here this morning that the Rev. Berryman Green, pastor of Christ Episcopal Church, of this city, who occupied the pulpit at St. Paul's Church, Richmond, on Sunday last, while delivering his night sermon had a fainting spell which brought the services to an abrupt end. He had just recovered from a severe illness and was not strong enough to undertake his pastoral work. Mr. Green has returned and is now confined to his home on North Washington Street.

The funeral of William Kevan took place at 9 o'clock this morning from St. Mary's Catholic Church. The services were conducted by Rev. J. J. Butler, and the interment was made in St. Michael's cemetery. Davis Post, G. A. R., of which deceased was a member, attended in a body.

In a game of basketball last evening between the Junior Alexandria Athletic Association and the Junior Carroll Lyceum team, of Washington, at Schuler's Hall, the former defeated the latter by a score of 5 to 2.

IN ALEXANDRIA'S COUNCIL.

The Curfew and Gas Superintendent.

ALEXANDRIA, March 12.—The semi-monthly meeting of the city council will be held tonight. Two measures, which are regarded as important, will, in all probability, come before that body. One is to create the office of superintendent of the gas works and the other to put in operation the Curfew law. The first named measure was introduced in the city council at its last meeting by Mr. Desmond. The salary for the proposed superintendent is \$1,000 per annum. The appointment must pass an examination by the Board of Public Works. The proposition was referred to a committee on finance, light, and general laws and the report will tonight be submitted to council.

The Curfew law is being urged by a delegation of women who have gotten up a petition which states that all boys and girls under sixteen years of age out after 9 o'clock at night shall be subject to arrest. It is not probable that the council will take any action in this matter.

Washingtonians to Build.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., March 12.—A number of wealthy Washingtonians will shortly erect here a large number of houses in different sections of the city. E. Quincy Smith, Vice President of the Union Savings Bank, of Washington, will arrive here tomorrow for the purpose of arranging the preliminaries. Among others who are interested in the enterprise are S. W. Woodward, President A. L. Powell, of the City Council, says the Washingtonians propose to build probably as many as fifty residences in the city, at a cost of \$1,500 each. It is expected that the total investment will reach in the neighborhood of \$75,000.

Daniel Smith Exonerated.

FREDERICK, Md., March 12.—Daniel Smith, the aged farmer of Wolfsville, who has been confined in the county jail since February 18, charged with killing his aged wife, Malinda, by administering a dose of poison in some hot pudding which she had prepared for supper yesterday. In his report, received yesterday by State's Attorney Glenn H. Worthington, State Chemist Tony states that he found in the pudding traces of arsenic. On this report the State's Attorney had the prisoner brought before Justice Biser, who ordered his release.

A Virginia Elopement.

SUFFOLK, Va., March 12.—William L. Cone and Miss Dora Saunders left Suffolk yesterday for Gates County, N. C., for the purpose of marriage. They arrived about sunrise from Isle of Wight county, their home, and took a train for Gates Station. They had driven about twenty-five miles through the snow to reach Suffolk. The elopement is said to have been the result of opposition on the part of Zachariah Munford and wife, with whom Miss Saunders lived.

Imbecile Burned to Death.

KEYSER, W. Va., March 12.—Samuel Haslacker, an imbecile who lives at the county almshouse near Petersburg, W. Va., was burned to death, his clothes having caught fire from live coals in a bucket of ashes he was carrying. This is the second burning fatality at that place in a few days, the other victim having been a small child, his clothes having caught while playing at the stove.

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